



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

23 December 1992

Dear Mr. Aran,

Thank you for your letter of 16 December to the Prime Minister about the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I understand why you argue for military intervention to stop the appalling fighting and the continued abuse of human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, I do not believe that outside military intervention is the way to achieve this. Such action would make an already serious situation worse. It could also compromise the massive humanitarian relief operation to supply Bosnia during winter, in which Britain is playing a major part. Where we do see a role for military involvement is in helping escort relief convoys and to protect movements of released detainees. Britain has provided well over 2000 troops for this exercise.

In the end, the fighting can only be stopped by negotiations between the parties on an overall political settlement. That is why we support the efforts of Lord Owen and Mr Cyrus Vance to negotiate a solution which respects Bosnia's sovereignty within present frontiers, and which gives full protection to all within these frontiers.

We are bringing other pressures to bear. Sanctions have an important role in this and they are having an economic effect on Serbia. We are working constantly with the UN and others to make them more effective. The UN is also considering the need for further measures to enforce the no fly zone over Bosnia. The zone has had a salutary effect in so far as there has been no evidence of combat missions being flown since 12 October. We hope that the threat of enforcement action will deter the Bosnian Serbs from further use of aircraft in the conflict.

We shall maintain pressure on the Serbs and others to fulfil the commitments they made in London. We cannot ultimately impose a solution. But we are doing our best to

achieve a political settlement which respects the rights of all people in the former Yugoslavia, including the Bosnian Muslims.

Yours sincerely,
J. S. Wall

J. S. WALL

Mr. Salem Azzam

16 December 1992

Mr John Major, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

The situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina grows worse daily and there is no true hope of any improvement unless Serbian aggression is curbed. What the Serbs have already been allowed to do is unforgivable and a stain on the world's conscience. 'Ethnic cleansing' and concentration camps in Europe, murder, rape and infanticide, all strongly redolent of Nazism, are seemingly condoned by those who have the power, but no will, to stop this slaughter. And there is an arms embargo on Bosnia preventing the Bosnians even from trying to defend themselves. There is great injustice in this situation.

May I urge you to reconsider your reservations about the use of force and the current draft resolution to enforce a 'no-fly' zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. Public opinion in this country and indeed throughout Europe appears to be way ahead of governments in realising that only military intervention can now redress the tragedy of the former Yugoslavia. The history of the United Kingdom shows many examples of its courage in confronting aggression, the Second World War being perhaps the most glorious instance of the triumph of good over evil. Yet now the evil has reappeared, and at the heart of Europe, and many people, watching the tragedy unfold day after day on their television screens, find the inaction of the Western powers very difficult to understand.

We hope very much that you will put the weight of your government behind the increasing call for positive action to put an end to the killing and to bring peace so that the suffering of hundreds of thousands of innocent people may be eased.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General